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SPECIAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE NUMBER.

The Common Cause OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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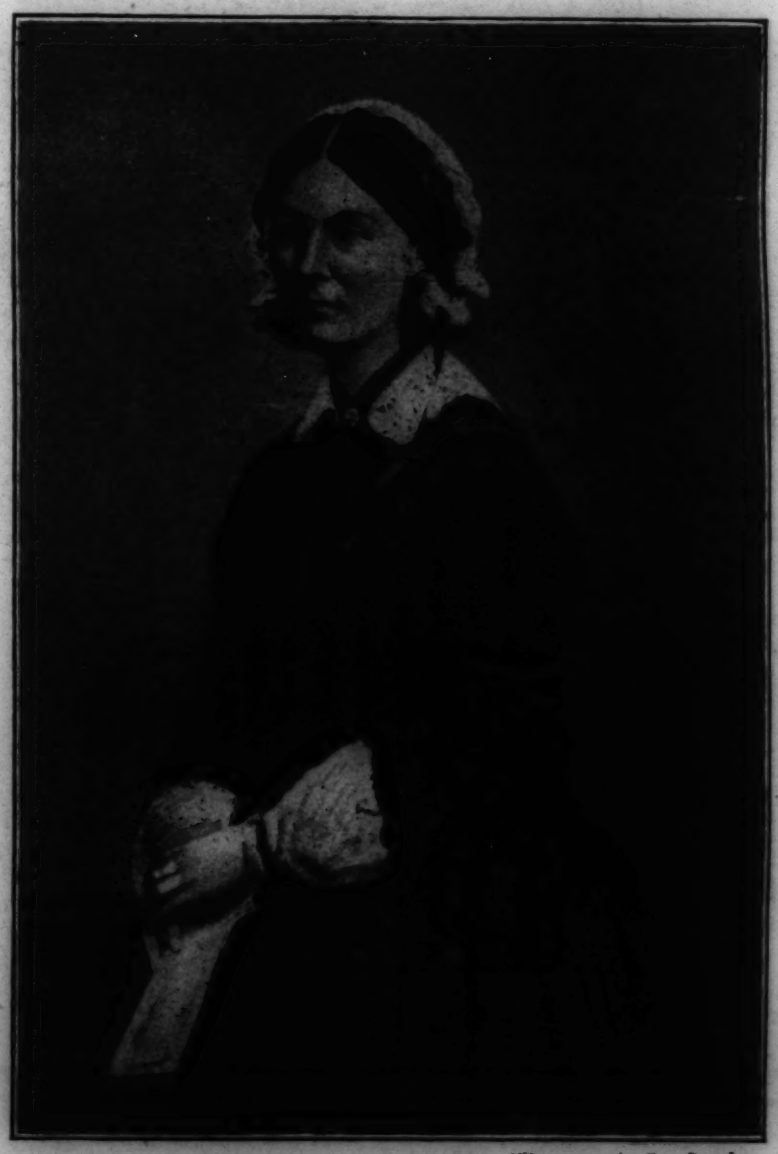
Florence Nightingale.

"A Lady with a Lamp shall stand
In the great history of the land,
A noble type of good,
Heroic womanhood."

Longfellow.

The Lady with the Lamp.

It was on the 12th of October, 1854, during the Crimean War, that the famous letter from the special correspondent (Mr. W. H. Russell) appeared in *The Times*, describing for the first time the true state of things; the neglect of our wounded; the absence of preparation for the commonest surgical operations, "even after the troops had been six months in the country," so that men were "left to expire in agony, unheeded, and shaken off, though catching desperately at the surgeon whenever he makes his rounds of a fetid ship," and how later, when vast barracks had been put by the Turks at the disposal of the military authorities, "the commonest appliances of a workhouse ward" were wanting, and "the men must die through the medical staff of the British Army having forgotten that old rags (*sic*) are necessary for the dressing of wounds." The letter went on to say that surgeons were not to be had, of women nurses there were none, and "the worn-out pensioners who were brought as an ambulance corps were totally useless." The French, on the other hand, had extremely good medical arrangements, and their Sisters of Charity were excellent nurses. In the midst of the consternation and anger roused by his letter, people began to ask, "Why have we no Sisters of Charity? Why should there not be English women nurses for the Army?"



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FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

Everyone knows the splendid story of the response. Miss Florence Nightingale, whose whole life and study of nursing seemed to have been one continuous preparation for such a crisis as this, read the dispatch, and, as Sir Edward Cook has said, "the words came with something of the force of a call from Above." She was ready to answer the call. Mr. Sidney Herbert, "Secretary at War," realised that there was in England one woman whose powers were equal to the crisis, and within forty-eight hours the plans were made. No time was lost. Nine days later, on October 21st, Miss Nightingale started for the East, with a party of thirty-eight nurses, trained, as far as nurses could be said to be trained in those days, and on November 4th, the day of the Battle of Inkerman, she arrived at the Barrack Hospital of Scutari. The wounded were pouring in fast, till, as she said herself in a letter (November 14th), "we have now *four miles* of beds, and not eighteen inches apart."

But there was not only the sudden influx of bad cases after a great battle. Nothing was ready. Miss Nightingale began by putting in boilers to do the washing, by starting extra diet kitchens, and by starting a store (supplying the money partly out of *The Times* fund, partly out of her own private purse), for sheets, towels, shirts, and even knives and forks. Many or most of these things had actually been sent out from England, but the medicines and clothing were packed *under* ammunition for the front, and either never reached the hospitals at all, or could not be found for months, and "the Customs House was a bottomless pit; nothing ever came out." The fact was that no one person was to blame. A bad system had broken down, and War Office red tape, as usual, prevented any initiative or effort to set things right. "Females," said a doctor afterwards, "are able to discover many deficiencies that a man will have no idea of looking into." Certainly there were plenty to discover!

A large part of the hospital building was dilapidated. The necessary repairs were only carried out when Miss Nightingale herself found the money. Nobody else could or would undertake this responsibility, although 500 wounded men were actually being sent to fill these very wards, because, according to routine, permission to move at all had to be obtained through the Director-General in London! All this work of organisation fell to Miss Nightingale. She accomplished even more. Her suggestions for the transport and distribution of hospital stores were adopted.

Florence Nightingale was never out of the hospitals. Cholera came, and typhus; the grim wreckage of the battlefield filled the "four miles of beds" over and over again. Her days were very long, she sat up late at night to write her letters, and very often letters for her soldiers, but she would make her final round of the wards when all was finished, with her little lantern in her hand. "We lay there by hundreds," said one who saw her pass, "but we would kiss her shadow as it fell, and lay our heads on the pillow again content." Courage, cheerfulness, and comfort seemed to radiate from her, and to be communicated to the fellow-helpers who came out to assist with the enormous masses of detailed work. And in spite of illness and exhaustion brought on by the heavy strain, Florence Nightingale stayed at her post till, at the end of the war, the last transport had sailed. But two things she never forgot—the sufferings and endurance of the troops—the heroic "long and silent fortitude" of the British soldier, his "unalterable patience, simplicity, and good strength, the voiceless strength to suffer and be still"; and the urgent need to prevent such sufferings in future.

The Founder.

To all appearance, the Lady with the Lamp had done her work. Her health had broken down under the strain, and, while she was much of an invalid for the rest of her life, she was also a complete recluse. The legend, crystallised by Longellow in a beautiful poem, was all that the public knew of her. But in reality the nursing at Scutari and in the Crimea was only her starting point; her active life was just beginning.

She had said, half-laughingly, when honours and rewards were spoken of, that she would ask for the appointment of a Royal Commission. When, in fact, the Royal Commission was at last set up, Florence Nightingale was not (as now she would be) a member of it, but she sent in her wonderful epoch-making Report, which forestalled or foreshadowed schemes of reorganisation and reform which have taken place since, and are now either a matter of course or still (alas!) waiting to be carried out. This report, one of the most valuable contributions ever made to hospital administration in time of war, and that, if carried out, would have saved hundreds of thousands of valuable lives in the American Civil War and in South Africa, is the least known of all Miss Nightingale's works, and much the most remarkable. It was meant to be an appeal to the public in case the Royal Commission fell through; but the Commission accomplished part of the reforms, and the only copies of her *Notes on Hospital Administration* were privately printed for distribution among influential persons.

For some years she planned, with her friend Mr. Sidney Herbert, far-reaching schemes for her soldiers' welfare in health. The first soldiers' reading-room was started, and given by Miss Nightingale; and she asked for a club-room for every barrack, for libraries, lectures, outdoor games and amusements; and if no modern barrack is now complete without these things—it was Miss Nightingale who first initiated them. Her time and her strength, her money and influence all were used to the utmost for her soldiers. And statesmen, and even army administrators, listened to her, for she spoke always of what she *knew*, learned in days when she stood for twenty hours at a stretch, apportioning quarters, distributing stores, directing her staff, helping personally at the most painful operations so as to support and soothe. The same brain and will that asked in the Crimea for a "*head*—someone with *authority* to mash up the departments into uniform and rapid action"—was now devising every possible means of securing that swift concentration and smooth working.

Other paths opened out. The Founder of Modern Nursing, from her quiet invalid's room, was "setting reformers to work" all through her long life. Her next province was the health and welfare of the Indian Army, where Sir John Lawrence co-operated with her with almost as immense effect as formerly Sidney Herbert. She became the consultant of the War Office; the untiring originator of constructive reforms. And still her work grew.

That piece of her work which she herself thought most valuable—her schemes for sanitation in India—comprising the drainage of Madras and plans for irrigation, were all founded upon village sanitation, upon "local government, combined with education," and she appealed again and again to Indian gentlemen to take the lead in sanitary matters, and to rouse the people of India to a sense of the vital necessity of sanitary measures. For thirty years Miss Nightingale never ceased to devise practical measures, nor wearied of putting them before Minister after Minister; and if her wise reforms still largely remain to be carried out, she may be said to have mapped out the roads that have been made, and are still to make, in national hygiene; and to have brought light into the dark places of the Empire.

And, side by side with this work, she was laying the foundations of "modern nursing" at home, in helping to establish training schools, and organising the staffs of hospitals. Yet Miss Nightingale had little faith in forms or institutions; she believed much in individuals. "For my part," she said, "I think that people should always be founders. . . . While the founder is there his or her work will be done, not afterwards. The founder cannot foresee the evil which will arise when he is no longer here. Therefore, let him not try to establish an Order." The same belief led her perhaps to do her building work through men and women. She was a convinced Women's Suffragist. Of women, over and over again, she wrote that her thought had always been that they were "the handmaids of the Lord." The starting of a hospital seemed to her to be in some aspects "the establishing of a new religion"; the work of sanitation, the discoveries of science, were all efforts to ascertain and *do* the will of God on earth. So she wished for no memorial save the preparation of others for service. Is it not possible to see that she has in the hearts of men and women of to-day the best memorial? The work done in France and Serbia, in hospitals at home and in India, above all the big disciplined organisations of women working together for national service are in great part her memorial—the continuation of her service.

Sir Edward Cook's "Life of Miss Florence Nightingale" (Macmillan) should be read by every man and woman who has the welfare of our soldiers and sailors at heart.

Developments of Florence Nightingale's Work.

Since Florence Nightingale first started the nursing of soldiers by trained women the Army Nursing Service has steadily developed, until, in modern times Army Sisters are always to be found wherever any large number of troops are stationed. At the present time, in addition to four or five thousand nurses belonging to the Army Nursing Service and Nursing Reserve, about 5,000 members of the Territorial Nursing Service are working at home and abroad; a tremendous increase over the number serving during the Crimean War. Florence Nightingale took with her only forty trained nurses, and the total number that worked under her was about 120, to attend to "four miles of beds." In the Boer War there may have been about 1,500 nurses working in South Africa.

Great improvements have been made in the nursing service since the South African War. After the war a Royal Commission was held on the care and treatment of the sick and wounded during the campaign, and, as a result, a War Office Committee was appointed to consider the "Re-organising of the Army Medical Service and the Army Nursing Service."

Nearly all the recommendations of the Committee have been carried out, and the whole system of army nursing is much better organised than ever before. "One of the lessons taught by the experience gained in the South African War," writes Miss Sidney Brown, Matron-in-Chief of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, in an article in *The Fingerpost*, "was that it was impossible for the War Office to try to organise an efficient nursing staff, or to obtain a sufficient number of properly-qualified nurses, if the arrangements were left until war broke out."

It is impossible to provide competent nurses, verify their certificates, and examine their references at twenty-four hours' notice, and if the organising of a nursing service is left until war breaks out it is inevitable that unsuitable people should be engaged. To prevent this the Territorial Force Nursing Service was formed, in 1908, and, by 1914, was at a strength of 3,000 fully-trained nurses, ready to be called up at twenty-four hours' notice in any national emergency. For this service a small number of nurses were selected from a large number of institutions, so that mobilisation should involve taking only a few from any one source, and thus avoid crippling the hospitals as regards their nursing arrangements.

All the members of this service are well-trained women, carefully selected by the principal matrons of each centre, their appointments being confirmed by an Advisory Council at the War Office. Some of these volunteered their services in the last Balkan War, and thus gained valuable experience of nursing under actual war conditions. In peace time, only the principal matrons and matrons attending a military hospital triennially for training, receive pay, but on mobilisation the pay of all ranks is the same as that for the regular service.

The original idea was that only a small proportion of nurses from each Territorial hospital should volunteer for active service abroad, but the gigantic scale of the present war has rendered previous provision quite inadequate. Not only have many more nurses been required for service overseas than was at all foreseen, but all over Britain additional military hospitals have been established for which a supply of nurses had to be found.

Many privately-organised hospitals were also established at the beginning of the war. Some of these had excellent organisations, and did first-rate work; but it is desirable that all these should be put on the same footing and have the same carefully-organised staff as the large hospitals, though if they are meant for less serious cases they might have a large proportion of untrained assistance.

Very useful work has been done by the Voluntary Aid Detachments. These were started in 1909 with a view to rendering aid in the event of war in home territory. They were organised by the Territorial County Associations, and the British Red Cross Society has also taken an active part in raising detachments. The original idea of the scheme was that the women's detachments should be employed chiefly in forming railway rest stations, for providing meals and refreshments for sick and wounded during transit, and in taking temporary charge in the evacuation stations or temporary hospitals of severe cases unable to continue the journey.

The scheme has, however, had to be greatly enlarged since the outbreak of war. A large number of hospitals have been organised by Voluntary Aid Detachments, in each of which, according to regulations, there must be *at least* two fully-trained nurses; and many members are serving in hospitals both at home and abroad, doing the work usually done by probationers, wardmaids, cooks, and orderlies, and generally making themselves useful under expert supervision.

Very little is heard of the grand work all these women are doing, both trained and untrained. Their work is very arduous. Many nurses have given up their lives for their country. The spirit in which their work is done is shown by the behaviour of the nurses of the ships that have been torpedoed by the enemy. When the order was given, "Women first" to be put in boats, the nurses said it is now our privilege to go last and the sick and wounded first, and so many lost their lives.

The Woman Army Doctor.

The Crimean War produced the woman army nurse. A great feature of this war has been the WOMAN ARMY DOCTOR.

At the beginning of the war, the services of medical women were declined by the military authorities at home, and it was not until they had proved their usefulness under the French and Belgian Red Cross that they were allowed to work under the auspices of the British Medical Service.

The work of the hospitals organised by the Scottish Federation of the N.U.W.S.S. is dealt with in a separate article. This work has been mainly for our Allies in France, but, on its way to Serbia, one of the Units under Dr. Alice Hutchison was commandeered by Lord Methuen, the Governor of Malta, to nurse our own wounded men from the Dardanelles (see page 62).

When they left, Lord Methuen wrote:—

"It is not in my power to express my gratitude for this help given me by the Serbian Unit. They leave here blessed by myself, surgeons, nurses, and patients alike, for they have proved themselves most capable and untiring workers. They never made the smallest difficulty, and would not have been sorry had I ordered them to remain another week."

As early as September, 1914, a Unit organised by Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, with Dr. Florence Stoney as head of the medical staff, was working in Belgium, and another, the Women's Hospital Corps, under Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray, was established in Paris, its offer of help having been accepted by the French Government.

The Women's Hospital Corps, which consisted of seven women doctors, a staff of fully trained nurses, and three orderlies, went to Paris at the request of the Union des Femmes de France, one of the three constituent societies of the Croix Rouge Française. It was established at Claridge's Hotel, in the Champs Elysées, a fine new building, built to attract wealthy Americans, but destined instead to receive wounded soldiers. The Unit was provided with a first-rate equipment, including an X-Ray apparatus, which was established in what was originally the hairdressing saloon, while the ladies' cloak-room, with beautiful tiled floors and walls, was turned into an operating theatre.

During the first weeks, the Unit was kept very busy, most of the men being badly wounded, and it won the admiration of Parisians by the excellence of its equipment and organisation, and the efficiency of its staff. British wounded as well as French were received, and this necessitated a visit from one of our own Army officials, who was so well satisfied with the hospital that he asked if more patients could be taken in. After this the other British military officials and a number of medical men came to have a look at the women doctors' work, and the result was that when the battle line moved further north and fewer wounded were sent to Paris, the Women's Hospital Corps was accepted for work under the British Army Medical Service. Having opened a second hospital at Wimereux, near Boulogne, Dr. Anderson and Dr. Murray presented themselves at headquarters. The story of this reception is told as follows in the Hospital Journal:—

"We walked into a bare room, where two officials were sitting at different ends of a table, presented our cards and our letter of introduction. Colonel —— looked up at us, and said:

"'Oh, yes; I know all about you. You are the Women's Hospital Corps. You are extremely welcome here. We are delighted to hear you are going to establish yourselves' . . . and more of the same kind.

"The other Colonel said: 'How many beds will you have?' We told them we were established, that we would have up to one hundred beds, and asked them whether we should be used. He said: 'Yes, you shall be used to the fullest extent.' We asked whether we should be working under them, and he said: 'Certainly; you will be working directly under me.' He then began to give me instructions as to what books to wire for, what forms and statistics to keep, and how to classify cases; while Dr. Anderson broached the question of rations. He said at once: 'Yes, you must have rations, certainly. And have you a quartermaster?' We had never thought about a quartermaster, but we said: 'Oh, yes; we have a quartermaster'—simultaneously, in our minds, appointing Orderly Campbell!"

This hospital, then, has been the first of those organised and staffed by women to be given official recognition by the War Office. They lived on Army rations, and indented for stores, clothing, and coal. It is interesting, also, to learn that two of the younger doctors of the staff were at once borrowed by the R.A.M.C., and were much appreciated.

For a time the hospital in Paris was maintained as well, but as fewer and fewer wounded were brought in, the whole staff and equipment were finally transferred to Wimereux, to the regret of the French authorities, who appreciated the hospital very highly. "You have set a standard," said one of the medical officials, "which is quite unknown, even amongst the auxiliary hospitals. It is a fine thing to have you here . . . you are such a good example of what a hospital ought to be."

At Wimereux, the services of the corps were appreciated just as highly, and early in March, 1915, the War Office offered them the organisation of a general hospital of 520 beds in London, an offer which was readily accepted. At Endell Street, Dr. Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray, with the rank of majors of the British Army, are now in charge of a military hospital, with a staff of medical women under them, including a pathologist, an ophthalmic surgeon, and a dental surgeon. There is also a large staff of women orderlies, the success of whose work has paved the way for the employment of women in other hospitals to release men for service at the front.

Medical women are now holding appointments in various other military hospitals, but have, as a rule, no military rank, though they receive the same pay as men in corresponding positions. Dr. Everett Maclaren, however (a member of the Glasgow Women's Suffrage Society), holds the rank of captain in the 3rd Scottish Military Hospital (Oakland, Glasgow), where she acts as Resident Pathologist and Bacteriologist. Another interesting appointment is that of Dr. Florence Stoney, who did such excellent work in Belgium, and was afterwards given charge of the X-ray department of a military hospital of over 900 beds at Fulham.

It may be noted that both the "Scottish Women's Hospitals" and the Women's Hospitals Corps were initiated and administered by Suffragists, though support has been given by many people of different views.

The Women Orderlies.

Another development in the present war is the employment of women to take the place of men as orderlies, cooks, clerks, dispensers, motor drivers, telephone operators, and in various other capacities. This will be described in an article in next week's issue of THE COMMON CAUSE.

Copies of the portrait of Florence Nightingale on our first page can be obtained from the London Stereoscopic Company, Hanover Square; The Betterment Book Room, 406, Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead; and from Clark & Davies, 35-36, Museum Street, W.C.

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Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service.

What the people of this country have done and given in this terrible war will always remain a proud record in our history. But perhaps the sacrifices the least noticed, and in many ways the most difficult to make, have been the sacrifice of positions slowly and painfully won through long years, the sacrifice of the prejudices of a generation, the sacrifice of the postponement of causes which have meant more than life to their supporters. Men have thrown away with both hands all the gain that trade unionism brought them; the whole country has turned its back on what once seemed the self-evident fact about conscription; and women Suffragists ceased to work at that which was for them, and still is to them, the vital question of the position of women in the State, in order that their hands might be more free to help their country in the sudden emergency. These are the things by which we shall be judged; by them we can test the strength and determination of the whole people, for there is nothing harder than to relinquish what we have struggled and suffered for, or the prejudice that seemed so fundamental that it was hardly worth arguing about—this has been our great victory over ourselves.

When the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies turned from its political work and inaugurated so many patriotic war schemes, it was the Scottish Federation that evolved the idea of forming hospitals for the care of the sick and wounded. Later on, the hospitals were adopted by the whole National Union; but they have formed a wonderful rallying point for women of every shade of political opinion—non-Suffragists and anti-Suffragists, alike pouring their money to the common fund, and giving their personal service. From the first it was decided that the hospitals should be women's hospitals—organised, officered, and staffed throughout by women. The Scottish Federation, under its President, Miss S. E. S. Mair, formed a special Sub-Committee to carry out the scheme, and this Committee, strengthened by many well-known Scottish women, and under the Chairmanship of Mrs. James Hunter, has demonstrated how efficiently and how economically war hospitals can be organised.

The first meeting in support was held in Greenock, arranged by Mrs. Laurie, the amazingly successful Treasurer of the Funds. The first subscription to the Funds—or, rather, the first public subscription—for a certain amount had been promised privately before—was given by a teacher at that meeting. She announced that she had £10 which she wished to subscribe to the war funds, and she felt that her opportunity had come. Since then hundreds and thousands of pounds have flowed in; it continues to pour in—from America, where Miss Burke is addressing crowded and enthusiastic meetings in support of the hospitals, where H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught has presided at one meeting, and President Wilson has given her an interview; from India, where Mrs. Shaw McLaren initiated a campaign; and from the self-governing Dominions. But that first £10 from a woman who is not rich will never be forgotten because of the faith it showed in an, as yet, untried venture. To-day practically every Society in the National Union supports the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and in London a Special Committee was formed by the London Suffrage Society for carrying forward the work. The money subscribed amounts to over £110,000: that we can estimate; but how are we to estimate the work given—the steady organisation at Headquarters, the loyal support all over the country, the devoted service which has made every single hospital sent out a success—and an outstanding success.

The first hospital went to Calais, under Dr. Alice Hutchison, for service with the Belgian Army, during the outbreak of enteric which occurred at the end of 1914. Dr. Hutchison had already made her name during the First Balkan War, when she worked among the Bulgarian wounded for six months. She knew what war conditions were, and her hospital "set the pace" as regards the standard of medical work for all the Scottish Women's Hospitals that followed, for, according to the official returns, its death-rate was lower than that of any other hospital in Calais. It was the only hospital in Calais nursed entirely by fully-trained British Sisters, and the result is a tribute to them as well as to Dr. Alice Hutchison and Dr. Mary Phillips.

The next hospital went to France under the Croix Rouge Française, whose President, Madame la Vicomtesse de la Panouse, made the way smooth for us. It was she who secured for the hospital the beautiful Abbaye de Royaumont, the pro-

perty of M. Gonin, who gave the use of it to the Croix Rouge for the war. A building of the eleventh century, of the most exquisite architecture, the Abbaye has lent itself wonderfully to the requirements of a modern hospital, " one of the most perfect hospitals in France." The great credit for its success belongs

Presentation of the Croix de Guerre to Mrs. Harley by General Sarrail.

to Dr. Frances Ivens, its Chief Medical Officer. To her great skill as a surgeon she unites the tact and *savoir faire* which makes it easy for her to work with the authorities, both military and medical. For a long time she was helped by Mrs. Harle a sister of Sir John French, as Administrator, whose servic at Royaumont, and later at another Scottish hospital at Troy have been recognised by our Allies, who have conferred on H the Croix de Guerre.

Professor Weinburg paid a very generous tribute to excellence of the hospital at Royaumont. But perhaps the b testimonial is the fact that within two months of the oper of the hospital Dr. Ivens was asked by the French authoritie double her number of beds, and very soon afterwards to form ambulance flottante, and that within six months the Fr military authorities asked for a second hospital run on the s lines at Troyes. In May, 1915, this hospital went out, Louise McIlroy, Surgeon-in-Chief, and Dr. Laura Sanden Physician-in-Chief, Mrs. Harley accompanying them Administrator. This hospital differed from that at Royaum in that it was directly under the French Military Authorities, under the Croix Rouge. A camp hospital, placed in the grou of the Chateau Cantaloupe, it worked at Troyes all through summer, and then, when the French Expeditionary Force v to Salonique, it was dispatched there with it—one of the instances where a voluntary hospital has been sent with expeditionary force, and one which speaks for itself as re the efficiency of the work. The hospital reached the Se frontier at Juvgeli, but had to retreat when the armies fell on Salonique. The camp is situated just outside Salonique, is one of the " show " hospitals there.

The Serbian Hospitals have had the most dramatic hist Beginning with the first Unit, which arrived in Serbia just a the great Serbian victories over the Austrians in the enc 1914, and not yet finished by the last Unit, which is in ch of all the sanitary and medical work among the Serbian refug in Corsica. In the interval came the outbreak of typhus, long, quiet summer, when three more hospitals were for behind the Serbian armies on the Danube and the Sava, planned as part of a victorious campaign in Austria, the sud failure of our diplomacy and the simultaneous invasion of Se by Bulgar, Austrian, and German, the inevitable retreat, the evacuation of all four hospitals, one by one, and their moval to the West Morava Valley, the loss of all their equipm and then the retreat of some of the Units over the Montene mountains to the sea, while the rest were made prisoners by enemy.

This history began with the despatch of Dr. Eleanor S tau's Unit, in December, 1914. They had been sent out to n surgical cases, and the hospital they formed at Kragujev remained a surgical hospital until it was evacuated on Oct 25th, 1915. But the Unit found, on its arrival, that it had a more serious work before it, for the typhus epidemic, which begun in the disgracefully dirty and overcrowded hospitals

behind them by the Austrians, flowed over Serbia like a flood. No one will ever know what the mortality was from that terrible outbreak, but this we know, that more than a quarter of the Serbian doctors died, and two-thirds of the remainder had the disease, a fact which speaks volumes for the devotion of the Serbian medical profession, and is some indication of what the ravages must have been among the general population. To Dr. Soltau's everlasting credit, she took over, with her small staff and for such an increase of work, her inadequate equipment, No. 6 Reserve Hospital for typhus cases, and No. 7 Reserve Hospital for ordinary medical cases, in addition to her surgical hospital, which was full. The Committee hurried out reinforcements and equipment. For three long months those women worked there, facing the hard work and the long strain with indomitable spirit. There were three deaths among the Unit, young lives given in a great cause, and nine cases of illness, and still the effort never relaxed.

The British Government sent out a Commission, under Colonel Hunter, which did invaluable sanitary work outside the hospitals. There was also a French Commission, and an American one, which came out with all the wealth of the Rochefellow Institute at its back. Other units—French, Russian, American, and British—took their share of the work—notably Lady Paget's Unit, under the Serbian Relief Committee—and at last, by May, the epidemic was over.

It is a strange, dark, gruesome time to look back on ; but one marked by many brave deeds and much unrecorded heroism. It will always be a proud fact in the story of the Scottish Women's Hospital, that we took our share, too, in that great battle. At the end of the time Dr. Soltau herself fell ill and was invalided home. A had charge of th open

across to the Kosmai, the mountain which gave its name to one of the great battles of the preceding year. It was quite near this hospital that the Serbians built a drinking fountain "In Memory," as they quaintly put it, "of the Scottish Women's Hospitals." Mladanovatz is at the junction of the broad-gauge line to Belgrade, and the narrow-gauge line to Valjevo. And it was at Valjevo that the new Unit, sent out under Dr. Alice Hutchison, was stationed. She had volunteered for typhus work in Serbia as soon as the enteric epidemic in Calais was over. Her's was a very fine Camp Hospital, perfect in every detail of sanitation and organisation. The Valjevo Hospital was close behind the First Army, and had medical cases from it during the whole summer, but it arrived too late for typhus, for on its way out, it was stopped by Lord Methuen at Malta, to help with the pressure of cases from the Dardanelles. We must remember that the first wish of the Committee had been to help with our own wounded, but a myopic War Office would have nothing to do with such a project, and it was a curious revenge that fate should send, after all, a Scottish Women's Unit to help them out of a difficulty in Malta. When that Unit left, Lord Methuen wrote that they left with the blessings of himself, the doctors, and the patients. The men showed their appreciation by an indignant demonstration in the wards, when they found they were to lose their women-doctors, which had to be firmly quelled by the women doctors themselves. Our last bit of work that summer was the staffing and organising of the Serbian Military Hospital at Lazarovatz.

Then came the invasion. There is no space to tell of the horrors of the retreat. One hospital after another [illegible] field ambulance was formed in con- [illegible] called the Second Serbo- [illegible] and Dr. Laird, the [illegible] over half [illegible] pitals,

Women and the State.

There are many things that have come to light since the war began which were but partly realised before it, and perhaps the most striking of these is the importance of women to the State.

Without their work and their endurance the world could at no time exist, but this is a fact which has been long known and unnoticed, but which it is now impossible to ignore. Women have come forward in innumerable different ways to "do their bit": in munition factories or in trams, in offices or in the fields; everywhere they have been needed, and everywhere they are now to be found working hard and taking their share of the burden of war. And yet, with all this outside work, their own work is carried on. The children are cared for and the homes are kept up, and women, even though they are wage-earners, still remain women.

But one thing is lacking still, one fundamental thing which makes all this war-time development dangerous. Women may work to support the State, and they may work to maintain the home, and they may keep things going while the men are away; but they are still unable to protect themselves and their children. They are still denied political power, still offered lower wages than their work should command, still exploited and powerless, and their labour which saves the country now will be in grave danger of wrecking it when the war is over.

The folly of all this is clear, and the remedy is clear, too. Let women have the vote to protect themselves and their children and their work; let them work on equal terms with men, and their work will be no danger to the State, but only an added richness; let them share in the political life of England, as they share in its industrial and domestic life; let them work for it with their brains as well as their hands. The women of England have deserved well of their country; let England acknowledge [illegible] by granting "votes for the women."

R. S.

War-Work of the London Society.

When, after the lapse of a few years, the strange experiences his time of war and horror can be looked at impartially and r general effect gauged, it seems not improbable that men say and believe that the extraordinary development of nen was one of its most outstanding features.

"The opinions of others concerning you," wrote Florence htingale, in 1853, "depend not at all, or very little, upon t *you* are, but upon what *they* are." This acute observation ws a flood of light upon the happenings of the present day hich we are all concerned, and lends probability to the con- ration that it is, after all, men whose prejudices and fixed are melting in the crucible of anxiety, and that it is their development that has led them to alter their opinions oman, and so to give them the chance to use their powers.

lowever this may be, much work has been undertaken and ed through by the various organised bodies of women g these strenuous twenty months, which, while differing aracter from the (by men) despised political work of the last years, is yet a very natural corollary to the experience and ht so gained.

The London Society has, during this time, suspended its t work for the Suffrage, and has used its head offices and nisation for sustaining and upholding the life and effort of nation in the circles and spheres it was best able to influence. It is difficult to believe that a more effective way of working political equality than such forms of public service could devised in the present crisis.

Very quickly after the outbreak of war a large part of the es, at 58, Victoria Street, were turned into a bureau for men's Service; and here a really great work in registering, ting, and examining into the offers of war service on the of women, and into the needs of employers has been carried Often as many as 100 inquirers a day are interviewed, and ach interview takes some twenty minutes at least, it will readily understood what an onerous undertaking is here ined.

Perhaps about 12,000 applications for posts, paid and un- , have been received and inquired into, and the greater ber of these applicants have been personally interviewed at Offices. The clerical work involved is enormous; the card- ing alone of the extremely diverse records of attainments qualifications, as also of the needs of employers, requires the inuous labour of several clerks.

Many hundreds of munition workers and supervisors have

been placed in different factories; very large numbers of clerical posts have been filled, canteen workers of all sorts have been provided for different societies and institutions applying for them, including supervisors, cooks, and waitresses, and caterers have been found for clubs and hotels.

Large numbers of outdoor positions have also been satisfactorily filled. Women have been sent continuously to all sorts of agricultural work, to gardening, and to stable work; the Bureau has provided motor-drivers, drivers of horses, and 'bus-conductors; and there seems to be no end to the new openings that now, day by day, present themselves to those who work in the different departments. Among these will be found posts for scientific-instrument makers, openings for dental mechanics, analytical chemists, grocers, motor-mechanics, wireless telegraphists, and many others.

About 100 applications a month are now coming in automatically from different employers needing paid workers, and from societies; and besides this, of course, very many more posts are heard of by direct inquiry.

Early last autumn it became clear that many educated women whose services might be valuable for mechanical processes needed some short training which should prove their aptitude and give them some facility in the craft they wished to follow. Members of the London Society Executive interested in the point decided that classes might well be started in oxy-acetylene welding and in elementary engineering. A small fund was got together for this purpose, and women instructors were obtained for both branches of the engineer's mystery (to use the old expression). Many secrets, long kept from the would-be woman worker, have, in the stress of war's emergencies, been at last unveiled, and among these very interesting secrets is the modern mystery of the use of the blow-pipe and oxy-acetylene gas. To many women now it is a mystery no longer; women welders, trained in the workshops of the London Society, are busy helping their country by welding well and truly the work brought to their hands in a number of air-craft factories in and round London, and also in the provinces. The Welding School goes on steadily training pupils and preparing for a larger demand, and always now, before the six weeks usually allotted to a learner are over, comes the inquiry from some new factory for a welder or two, or from some factory already supplied for further workers. The demand is always growing, and more room and further plant have been provided to cope with it.

The fitters and turners working in the Society's engineering shop are also being trained in larger numbers, and the new workshop lately fitted up for them in Chelsea gives much greater scope for development than was possible in the little studio at Notting Hill Gate where the work first began. As men are drafted away to the Army to serve their country with the colours, fitters and bench workers for the engineering shops become more difficult to obtain. The many clever, capable women trained at Chelsea should have a real opportunity of usefulness as inspiring in the present crisis as any task demanded of their brothers. Those who have been already placed in State-controlled factories are doing useful work for the nation, and are much valued by their employers.

In summarising the more recent war work of the London Society, the maintenance of special units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in France and in the East must not be omitted, though the work is well known to readers of The Common Cause. Over £10,000 has been raised for the London and London and Wales Units, and a motor-ambulance and X-ray car were sent to France by the Society.

To collect funds for all this special work, the Lamp Day street collection has been arranged. Florence Nightingale was the first to organise English women for special work in war-time; on this birthday of our pioneer, we ask the London public for money with which to carry on our labours, and trust that the memory of the little lamp she carried through the dark and terrible places of Scutari may shine still as a beacon in our own dark times, inspiring to high endeavour.

Mary Lowndes.

The Elementary Engineering Workshop in Chelsea.

IN AID OF THE N.U.W.S.S. MEDICAL UNITS IN RUSSIA.

A Russian Concert will be held on Tuesday, May 16th, at Sunderland House, by kind permission of the Duchess of Marlborough. Through the generosity of the Women's Municipal Party, the Society responsible for the organisation of the concert, half the proceeds from this effort are to be devoted to the N.U.W.S.S. Medical Units in Russia. A very attractive programme has been arranged, which will include a scene from Moussorgy's opera, "Boris Grodounoff," rendered by Madame Baron-Fonariova (Prima Donna of the Opera House, Brussels), and Monsieur Vladimir Rosing, the famous Russian tenor. Miss Doris Keane, whose wonderful acting in "Romance" at the Lyric Theatre is evoking widespread admiration, has promised a recitation, and a duologue will be given by Miss Gladys Cooper and Mr. Charles Hawtrey, while Mademoiselle Marie Novello, the well-known pianiste, has consented to play. The Duchess of Marlborough and Miss Frances Sterling will make short speeches on the two objects to which the proceeds of the concert are to be devoted. Tickets, £1 1s., 10s. 6d., 5s., and 2s. 6d., can be obtained from the N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Table d'Hôte.

"There is not a single war economy left for *me!* We used to have five servants, now we have three; and really the work of this house cannot be done with fewer maids. We wanted to reduce our whole scale of living, so we tried to let this place. (We have eight years of the lease left on our hands.) Nobody even came to look at us! You see, this house was built in the Victorian times, when people recklessly planned houses with flights on flights of stairs, and kept ever so many servants to keep them clean. Everybody knows that twentieth-century servants won't stay in such houses as this, because of the basement; because of the staircase: so here are we with our house on our hands! We cannot follow the advice of the newspaper economists and 'shut up three or four rooms.' We seem 'committed' to waste our labour and our money, and coal and gas and electric light. And I, myself, am just able to do a little work for the Red Cross one afternoon a week! Yes! it seems shameful mismanagement, I know. But I am *tied* to this house. I must keep it going; and, with only three maids, I have a good deal to do."

The plain-song of the housewife is sung in unison all over England: increase or decrease the number of the household, the "o'ercome of the song" is the same—we are "committed" to expenditure which is a burden and an extravagance. Nobody wants to burn coal when we all know that every ton we consume is so much deducted from our power of resistance to the enemy; but there is "Moloch," as Mme. Rudler called the kitchen-range, and all the lesser black-leaded grate gods upstairs, each devouring his daily sacrifice and demanding more, and a maid on bended knees must pay him due rites every morning. As I write I look up and see from my windows thousands of little columns of smoke rising from kitchen-ranges, and know that underneath that sea of grey house-roofs, armies of women, from girlhood to old age, spend their lives in a hopeless struggle with the greasy filth which Moloch pours back through every window and crevice on his worshippers. We are "committed" to serve Moloch, and the minor false deities; we cannot "scrap" the kitchen-range nor enlist the armies of women for real national service; we cannot combine to have a hot-water service with a couple of men to look after one set of boilers to supply a whole street. We must each of us make our contribution to the general mess and muddle in our own strikingly individual way. But one suggestion may be made for the consideration of the housewife, who is bound to her household gods and her house, and yet wishes, oh! so earnestly (1) That she could be of some use in a great national crisis *without leaving her home;* and (2) that she could "make a little money," as well as stinting herself and those dear to her to save it.

In a leafy quarter of Paris, on the Rive Gauche, between the Rue d'Assas and the Rue de Rennes, the writer used to pass daily a little door set in a high, white wall. Along the top of the wall trailed long purple festoons of the trellised wistaria, which seems willing to glorify any back yard in France, and somehow declines to live at all, except on hard terms, in Great Britain. The house, or what could be seen of it, was of the substantial, white stucco-fronted, green-shuttered description, usual in the Quartier du Luxembourg. It kept its ideas so discreetly to itself that you might go by for months and years and never remark anything about it except the pale violet branches of flowers and brilliant bronze leaves against the clear sky. But one May morning, towards noon, the door was standing open. One glance revealed a grey-paved courtyard, a green tub full of carnations in bud, and, under the wistaria, a long, white table set for déjeuner. A sort of hinged shelf outside the kitchen window did duty for a sideboard, for a basket of rolls and a white china salad bowl stood there. A more exquisite luncheon-room was never devised: cool, sunny, green-shaded, daintily clean—all in a little bit of space which in England would be a dusty wilderness surrounded by cast-iron railings, planted with sooty aucubas and inhabited by stray cats. It was only a glimpse, but a glimpse of coolness, freshness, and green leaves. An elderly lady, with a black lace scarf over her head, leaning on the arm of a tall man with a portfolio under his arm, passed through the door under the wistaria; three more arrivals, two girls and their mother, also passed through the gate—it seemed like a family party but it was not. It was only an everyday meal—a table d'hôte in a private house, to which the abonnés went in the natural course of things; and, because it was a hot day, déjeuner was served in the berceau, with a minimum of fuss and trouble. What a saving of service and fire! One marketing, one competent cook, a little management, some discretion, no doubt, in the selection of abonnés—and then this pleasant social repast! Then I thought of our English way. The untrained housewife, getting her experience at her servants' expense, the untrained servant getting hers again at her mistresses' expense, the blindfold buying, the butcher, baker, and greengrocer calling for orders, the expense of delivering all those orders, the amount paid in wages to six indifferent cooks—all "making up" six enormous kitchen fires to "cook" (*sic*) half-a-dozen variations on the theme of hash, plain boiled potatoes, greens, and ground-rice pudding! It was impossible not to sigh!

I know so well, as I look over that sea of roofs, that there are admirable cooks (here and there), whose talents are wasted on preparing a simple meal for one or two employers, which is partaken of at the end of a long dining-table. Cook has even been known to give notice because she was losing her skill, and not getting the kind of work she was accustomed to, or was not sufficiently appreciated. Mistresses, as has been said before, sometimes wish they could earn money. Is it not possible to take a lesson from France? Have you no neighbouring friends who would be glad to dispense with an incompetent cook, to shut up the kitchen altogether, and reduce the wages bill, employing a daily housemaid every morning for the rest of the work? Breakfast and tea are easy meals to prepare without help from servants. A gas stove, or at worst, a fire laid ready over-night, and breakfast, even of the solid English variety, presents no real difficulty. Luncheon and dinner (or supper) are serious problems for the servantless.

The need is often enough recognised on both sides. Why not make an experiment *now?* Care must be exercised, of course, in the selection of the subscribers, especially at the outset. The arrangement should always be made by the month, and terminable on notice given. It should be treated as a business arrangement, and there should be no interruption of daily routine. The subscribers would leave directly after the meal was over, for instance; for it would be impossible to keep up the fiction of a daily luncheon or supper party; but, at the same time, the talk at table ought to be regarded as a contribution to the pleasant working of a scheme for the general benefit.

The writer has known of one instance of such complete success in combining all these elements, that the memory of it will always abide with all the men and women who once met daily round the dining-table in a beautiful South African home. The simple meals, the easy, pleasant intercourse, the talk which covered very widely different interests, the atmosphere in which everyone seemed at his or her best—altogether made that table d'hôte a rest and refreshment in the long day's work. It was a real boon to the little group of (otherwise solitary) workers who met about the table twice a day. It seemed impossible that such gracious results could be attained by simply "letting things happen"; nor were they, for I learned a part of the secret—all, that is, which could be confided, for the "personal equation" eludes all formulæ. "Our lives, my daughter's and mine, were getting so narrow," said the lady of the house; "we felt we needed a wider outlook, more human contacts, and bigger interests. So we invested some of our little capital in this house. And our boarders have been the great interest of our lives."

It was extraordinarily true. The engineer busied with the Cape to Cairo railway, the lawyer deeply interested in Roman and Dutch law and Byzantine romances, the journalist who knew everyone from Khartoum to Cape Town, were all at heart working towards one ideal—the Pax Britannica, the British ideal. The big ideals seem to loom like a visible background behind all the general, careless talk, as the Mountain looms behind Cape Town. And nowadays, in a Great Britain so aroused that we all of us lift up our eyes unto the hills, the same sense of working together for the great things of life might form the background even to the new little experiment of a table d'hôte. We have not done such a thing before; we should do it now only for the sake of the "greater interests" for which the Lady of the Table d'Hôte had re-ordered her quiet life. G.

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Correspondence.

CONCERNING FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

MADAM,—I have been delayed, both directly and indirectly, through the pressure of the Shakespeare commemorations, in completing my investigations concerning one incident in Miss Nightingale's life. But as time presses I think that it will be preferable to publish what I know, rather than wait until after the anniversary of her birthday.

Some time ago I was giving a lecture on "The Treasures of the Record Office," and in the discussion a gentleman said he had seen a letter of Miss Nightingale's to an officer, who had sent it on to his superior officer, with his comment, "This woman must be crushed." The speaker went on to add, "We do not crush women now, we are too glad of their help." Had it been a Suffrage discussion I would naturally have strongly dissented from the expressed *opinion*. But it would have been irrelevant to the discussion, which was the importance of the Record Office Museum. I went down at once, and asked one of the superior officials where I could see that letter, and learn the names of the writer and receiver. He said he had never heard of it, and was perfectly certain it was not exhibited *now*. However, I went to the porter attendant on the Museum (which is now shut), and he remembered the letters perfectly well; they had been exhibited in the case, beside Lord Nelson's letters, for three months after Miss Nightingale's death, and then withdrawn. I wrote to the gentleman who had mentioned it, and he to the Secretary of the Society, which collectively had visited the Museum, and he kindly tells me: "Our visit to the Record Office was on March 18th, 1911. My notes do not disclose to whom Miss Nightingale's letter was addressed, but the note on it, from one officer to another, runs: '*I confess I think that it is time that we crushed the pretensions of Miss Nightingale to unlimited and almost irresponsible command over the nurses attached to the Army in the East.*'"

I am at present in Stratford, and if any of your Commiftee wishes to continue the search before my return, perhaps she might inquire of Mrs Giuseppi, one of the officials of the Record Office, who kindly conducted the party on that occasion.

CHARLOTTE C STOPES.

MADAM,—Some years ago I published the *Birthday Book of Flower and Song*, and having erroneously learnt that May 15th was Florence Nightingale's birthday, specially chose the following lines, by Adelaide Procter, for that date, and asked her for her signature in my book:—

"Helper of the poor and suffering,
Victor in a noble strife,
Singer of a noble poem,
Such the honours of my life."

When my book was returned to me, the clear and beautifully written signature, "Florence Nightingale," stood opposite these lines on May 12th:—

"Nor noise nor blaze attend my peaceful path;
Nor were it otherwise, should I desire
That noise and blaze of mine won any heart."—HENRY TAYLOR.

"For me I thank the Saints I am not great."—TENNYSON.

A precious little note accompanied the book:—

"DEAR MADAM,—As you ask me, I have written my name opposite May 12th, my 'birth-day.' I am very glad my birth-day is *not* 'May 15th,' as I infinitely prefer the verses of May 12th to those of May 15th.—F. N."

Such a charmingly characteristic touch as this of our Lady of the Lamp needs no comment.

ALICIA A. LEITH.

INFANT MORTALITY AND BREAST FEEDING.

MADAM,—If the rate of infant mortality in Germany is high, and if the use of substitutes for breast-milk is due to ascertained inability on the part of the German mother to nurse her own infant, one of the causes of this inability has been laid bare by the Chief Medical Officer of Health in Berlin—Professor von Gruber. He has published the following figures showing the relation between the drinking habits of a man and the inability of his *daughter* to suckle her children. He reckons that out of every 10,000 inhabitants of Germany,

300 are mentally affected,
150 are epileptic,
200 given to drink,
500 consumptive.

Of school-attending youth, one-third are weakly; two-fifths are insufficiently nourished; and of young mothers *three out of five are not capable of nursing their children.*

The proportionate effect of drinking habits upon the above results is thus tabulated:—

Fathers who are:	Daughters capable of Nursing.	Consumptives.	Nervous Diseases.
Entirely moderate ...	56.7 ...	6.4 ...	4.3
Moderate	39.7 ...	9.4 ...	7.6
Immoderate	6.8 ...	17.1 ...	11.1
"Soakers"	1.8 ...	24.2 ...	22.2

Numerous schedules from various districts in Germany confirming the above have been printed by the Berlin Association against the misuse of alcoholic liquors.

D. B. MCLAREN.

OBITUARY.

It is with regret that we hear of the death of Miss Norton, late Honorary Secretary of the Bexhill-on-Sea Branch. Although in very frail health she was always active on behalf of the local Society, and her loss will be much felt in the district.

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The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 50,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time suspended their ordinary political activities, and are devoting their organisation to various efforts which have for their object the sustaining of the vital strength of the nation.

To New Readers.

Since the war began, the work that women are doing has been greeted on all sides with admiration and surprise. To quote from the Prime Minister's tribute to Miss Edith Cavell last November: "We know now that there are thousands of such women; a year ago we did not know that they existed."

Fifty years ago, people certainly might be forgiven for not knowing that such women existed—for forgetting or not knowing of what stuff the women of the Empire are made. Fifty years ago the lives of one-half of the citizens of Great Britain were so hedged about with restrictions and artificial disabilities, that the mere thought of such national service as is being freely offered by women and accepted everywhere to-day would have been scouted as grotesque and denounced as improper. The lives of the younger women of the middle and upper classes, the very classes which have led and championed the woman's movement, were especially circumscribed. Florence Nightingale, who felt so passionately that "life is not a green pasture and a still water, as our homes make it"; and that "you cannot get out of a carriage at a party without seeing what is in the faces making the lane on either side, and without feeling tempted to rush back and say, 'Those are my brothers and sisters'"—was told at the age of thirty that "it would never do for a young woman in her station in life to go out in London unattended by a servant!" That was nearly seventy years ago. We seem to have travelled a very long way since then. Hundreds of thousands of women have gone out to engage in new occupations, often in circumstances of difficulty and danger; but those who are best serving the nation will be the first to recognise how little they could have done now if it had not been for those other women who went before them and

Broke Down the Barriers that Obstructed Women's Service.

Could the thousands of Red Cross nurses, whose untiring work has called forth such deserved praise, have freely shown their devotion, had not

Florence Nightingale Paved the Way

and broken through the prejudice against the work of women in military hospitals? There were very few who believed that women could endure the hardships of hospital work at the base, and fewer still who could bring themselves to imagine that *a woman could organise, could bring order out of chaos, and stop waste of material, waste of effort, and the fearful waste of young and strong lives!*

The Right to Serve in the Wards

was won in the Crimean War by the Pioneer of Nurses; then, for a very long while, it was said that the work and co-operation of women for the good of us all must cease at that particular point. The next step was again made at the cost of immense personal courage and sacrifice, when women entered medicine and abundantly justified their faith. Would the

Women Doctors and Surgeons

of the National Union of Suffrage Societies' Scottish Women's Hospitals have been able to bring their skill to the relief of

thousands of wounded men in this war in France and Serbia if such pioneers as

Dr. Jex-Blake and Dr. Garrett Anderson

had not won for women the right to medical and surgical training? Yet these pioneers were stoned in the streets of Edinburgh when they asked to take their places in the training schools.

Again, think what the state of children's education would be to-day when so many of the men teachers are called up for military service, if the work of women in our schools had not been made possible by the self-sacrificing efforts of pioneers to obtain training for them, if

Miss Emily Davies and Mrs. Henry Fawcett

had not fought the battle of the Higher Education of Women in the past?

Fifty years ago the girl who wanted anything beyond the "accomplishments" taught by a "finishing governess" either submissively accepted intellectual stagnation or was too often driven into a self-assertion which became eccentricity.

Does it seem as if all these developments were brought about without conscious effort, by some process of evolution which has produced automatically a whole generation of British women keenly alive to national needs and fitted to take their places in the ranks of the civilian fighters for freedom? We know it is not so; it is the result of

Thirty Years of Preparation

that has suddenly leapt to light. And in this lies our lesson for the future. The young women who are coming forward now must share in the heavy task of reconstruction which will follow the war. Are they to find in their turn that their best years and more than half their strength and vitality are to be wasted in overcoming difficulties *put in their way*, before they also can serve their generation? Surely not. Yet the largest part of the field of

Administrative Work

in which so many clear-headed and strong-hearted women would find their right vocation, is either closed altogether or practically barred to women. Political status, which would enable them to bring the pressure of the vote, the *only* pressure to which Governments (especially Governments under the party-system) pay any heed whatever, is still denied to the women who (it is freely admitted) are "saving the situation." The chorus goes up all over Great Britain—

"The Women are Wonderful!"

But how much more they would accomplish if they were not sedulously kept out of all positions of responsibility. ON THOSE WHO ARE EXPRESSING THEIR ADMIRATION OF THE WORK OF WOMEN TO-DAY, LIES THE DUTY OF FREEING THEIR PATH FROM OBSTRUCTIONS TO SERVICE.

Wages and the Vote.

"Why do you think the vote will raise women's wages? Surely wages are determined by demand and supply, not by votes?" This, or something like it, is a remark constantly heard by Suffragists, who urge the need of the vote in order to improve women's economic position. How much truth is there in it? It is, of course, true that the rate of wages at any given time in any given industry is determined by the relation between the demand for, and the supply of, labour in that trade at that time. But what are the conditions that determine the said supply and the said demand? Upon this matter heavy volumes might have, and indeed have been written. However, putting it as broadly and yet as tersely as possible, we may say something like this.

Demand is determined by the amount of capital available, and this, in its turn, depends mainly upon national productivity, one of the chief factors of which is the efficiency of labour. Whether the whole of the capital which *might* go to wages actually *will* go, depends partly upon the expectation of labour's efficiency (that is, in the view of those who control this capital) mainly upon the relative bargaining power of employer and employed. An employer will pay high wages if it is going to be worth his while to do so, and if he cannot get the labour he wants at lower rates. This brings us at once to the question of supply: that is, the amount of labour available at the price offered. In the case of women workers, unluckily, employers can generally get the labour they want at a low price. This is partly because women do not sell their labour at market price, for many of them are partly supported from other sources, and partly because of their want of bargaining power. Bargaining power means organisation, and women in the industrial world are lacking in organisation. But organisation cannot do everything. In our modern democracies the strongest organisations obtain much of their bargaining power by political means. Questions can be asked in the House of Commons, pressure can be brought to bear upon members and, by them, upon party organisations, and in a hundred ways familiar to all politicians and to most organisers, political influence can make itself felt. Good organisation, backed up by voting potentialities, can exercise very real power. Up to a certain point those who try to improve the wage-earning woman's position by organisation go on merrily. Much can be done by union officials, by combination in unions, by arousing the strong forces of corporate opinion. But sooner or later everyone concerned in the work comes up against the dead wall of political impotence. In these modern days of pressure and hurry no newspaper can spare very much space to any cause which does not affect the party machine. There is extraordinarily little means of awakening public opinion unless you can get the help of some section of the Press. The local member may be willing, and even anxious, to help, but the hard pressure of his party will make it absolutely essential that he shall attend first to the needs of those constituents who possess votes. When he has done all that they demand of him there is but little time and energy left for the cause of the voteless. Then, too, one is constantly realising the force of tradition. Over and over again one hears phrases like "the right amount to pay a woman," or "one can't decently pay a woman more than so-and-so." This attitude of mind is very largely due to the political status of women—of course, due to a thousand-and-one other reasons as well—but political status does come in. If one can get to the muddy and muddled bottom of the average mind one does find, over and over again, the confused idea that the vote is a mark of superiority, and that women, who do not vote, are not fit to be paid on the same basis as the voting and, therefore, superior male.

The whole question of women's wages is full of the most brain-racking complications and difficulties. But although it will probably act only indirectly, most of us feel that the change in the status of women, which enfranchisement gives, would be the most powerful weapon possible for improving women's economic position. When women have votes, men trade unionists will perceive (as often they do not now) the need of their support, and will realise that their cause is the same, instead of regarding them, at best, with a benevolent neutrality, and often with something much more like active hostility. Perhaps the war is going to break down the power of the party machine; but even if it does it is difficult to suppose that the bargaining power of the enfranchised, with his ability to influence the course of legislation, the need of the Press to obtain his support, the many opportunities he has for ventilating his grievances, is not going to remain stronger than the bargaining power of the worker who has no vote.

L. F.

The Women of Siberia.

Among the friends who take a keen interest in the Maternity Unit for Refugees in Russia, organised by the National Union, is Miss Curtis, who has travelled not only in many parts of Russia, but also in Siberia. "The Russians," she said to me the other day, "will be most touchingly grateful for anything that is done to help them. They are the most good-hearted people, and very fond of the English. I have extremely pleasant recollections of the time I spent among them, of their hospitality, and the kindness shown to me in all sorts of ways."

Miss Curtis had also many pleasant memories to recall of her travels in Siberia, where she went early in 1914 with Miss Czaplicka, who was in charge of an anthropological expedition from Oxford. The first part of the journey was by the Trans-Siberian Railway as far as Krasnoyarsk. Then for three weeks the party travelled on a small river steamer up the Yenisei.

"What were the people like?" I asked. "One usually thinks of Northern Siberia as a place of desolation, where the natives must lead most dreary, melancholy lives."

"They are a perfectly delightful people," Miss Curtis replied, "simple, merry, and kind. We found them most genial and hospitable, and extraordinarily honest.

"Miss Czaplicka gained their confidence by looking after

them when they were ill, and they soon got into the habit of coming to us when they wanted anything, though they had their own ways of dealing with sickness as well, which they carried on in strick privacy, for fear of getting into trouble with the Russian officials.

"Nominally, they are all Christians of the Greek Church, but they still keep up some of their own old customs. They have a sort of wizard priest, or Shaman, who, as far as we could make out, is very much like a North American Indian witch-doctor, whose idea of healing is to drive out the devil in possession of the sick person by incantation and charms. Whenever we heard the beat of a drum, we guessed that one of these ceremonies was going on, and we also found out that they sacrificed deer sometimes; but these things were kept carefully shrouded in mystery. They don't at all mind adopting the religion of the Russians, as they get presents when they are baptised, but seem to think it wise to keep on good terms with their old gods

"Can the different tribes understand one another's dialect, or are there quite distinct races in Siberia?"

"Some of the tribes seem to have no relation to one another at all. There are the Samoyeds, for instance, who are a dwarf race, very primitive and unspoilt. According to one theory, the Finns are a branch of this race, that migrated centuries ago to Europe. Then there are the Dolgans, who are distinctly Mongolian in type, resembling the Chinese, and Youraks, who are a half-breed type."

"And what is the position of the women among these various tribes?"

"Pretty much what it is among other primitives races. They are not ill-treated, nor do they seem to be much looked down upon; but their life is a very hard one. In addition to all the domestic work, they do a great deal of fish-cleaning. Fishing and fur collecting are the staple industries of this region. The rivers are full of fish—sturgeon, salmon, and omul—a kind of trout—and many other excellent kinds that are sold both fresh and salted. And thousands of little animals are slaughtered every year for their skins. The men carry on the actual hunting and fishing, but much of the drudgery connected with these trades falls on the women.

Women Traders.

"Russian women in this part of the world work extraordinarily hard, too. We came across quite a number of independent women traders, employing men to work under them, and others acting as agents for some firm, conducting the entire business of buying, keeping accounts, and managing everything themselves. They struck me as being most remarkably efficient. Not only were they clever, enterprising business women, but their homes were very well kept, which is not an easy achievement in that part of the world, with the primitive help available.

"One of these, a widow, Madam Nierativa by name, was a typical instance of the positions of trust and responsibility which women traders hold in Siberia. In addition to employing several families of Dolgans on her own account, to hunt for furs in winter and fish during the summer (incidentally, these people were the cleanest, most prosperous, and contented group of natives we came across), she was the agent for a rich merchant of Krasnoyarsk. This man—a not unusual occurrence—could neither read nor write, therefore his papers were made out and cheques signed by Madam Nierativa in her own name. She kept the accounts, conducting her own and the merchant's affairs at home and far afield, travelling many thousands of miles to bring furs for him and superintend her native employees.

"Even when the husband is living, the Siberian woman is not content to depend on his exertions alone. On one of our excursions we were hospitably entertained by a Madam Osipovitch, who owned a Yenisei fishing station, whilst her husband, during the summer season, worked about one hundred miles further north. Her house, in which cleanliness and order were supreme, was built after her own design, and under her superintendence. She employed seven men to snare and shoot wild geese and to fish, and five native women to pluck the birds and salt the fish. Many of these Siberian workmen are of the roughest type; some are time-expired criminals. The house lay many miles from the nearest settlement, therefore, to ensure order, her word was absolute. Yet the happy and contented faces of her workmen, the busy hum of activity about the place, said much for the tact and genius for organisation of our hostess. So far as we could observe, the women traders of the Yenisei are equal to their male rivals (or competitors) in business capacity, whilst they outstrip them in cleanliness and astuteness by refraining from drowning their wits in the vodka bottle.

"It is a very lonely, hard sort of life for them. Often there is not another European dwelling for miles, and no doctor or midwife within a ten days' journey.

The Havoc Wrought by Vodka.

"The native women suffer very much, too, from want of proper attention in childbirth, and there is a great deal of ill-health, especially consumption, among the various tribes. Many tribes seem to be dying out, partly from diseases introduced by Europeans, but largely from vodka, which plays great havoc among them.

"When a consignment of vodka is brought into a district, sometimes a whole tribe get drunk, and live in a state of hopeless inebriety till it is all gone. But they are wonderfully inoffensive when drunk.

"There is rarely any quarrelling or unpleasantness among them; their one idea is to make themselves agreeable. They are simply overflowing with goodwill, and will come and call on one in this state, and stay chatting till the early hours of the morning. They seem to lose all idea of time, and in summer, when there is practically no darkness, there is nothing to remind them."

"I suppose this season doesn't last very long?"

"No, but it is wonderfully beautiful just for a short time. Quite a reward for the long dark months. The snow disappears, and all sorts of brilliant little flowers burst suddenly into bloom. I found several kinds of bright-coloured vetch, marsh marigold, delphinium, scabious, and other familiar flowers, as well as some I had never seen before.

"Even more wonderful than the blossoming of the flowers, among the marshes one had known before as fields of snow, was the appearance of thousands of little song-birds.

"Northern Siberia is a great place for the migration of birds, some of which come from the North of India, build their nests, and then return with their young families before winter fastens on the land once more. As the marches became gay with flowers, the air was full of little twittering songs.

"Then there were wild swans, too, on the marshes, and other water birds. These the natives would sometimes hunt with very clever little white dogs, something like Pomeranians."

"The one great drawback to summer is the swarm of mosquitoes, which are far worse than those of tropical countries. We had to protect ourselves from them by all sorts of devices They would bite even through the seams of one's gloves."

"After this bright season, does the winter come on suddenly?"

"No, there is a short transition stage, which is not so bad, and then the nine months of winter. There are the most terrible blizzards, and everything is under snow and ice. The people live in tents made of skins, with a fire in the middle, and a hole at the top to let out the smoke. But this hole also lets in the snow, and in a storm the snow drifts in underneath. We lived with a native family for a time, in order to study their habits more closely, and though they were most kind and nice to us, we found it rather a trying experience. The family slept in skin sleeping bags, but we had only our fur coats to cover us, and though we kept all our clothes on, it was bitterly cold at night."

"It must be a very miserable existence for the natives on the whole?"

"They seem satisfied enough, but one feels there is little hope for them in the future. They are a people that are going down. The Ostyaks at one time were very warlike, and made a fierce

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resistance against the Russians, but they were not sufficiently united and organised to make a successful stand. The Russians induced them to undertake the subduing of another race, and thus both were weakened. Now one sees no warlike weapons among them, only the implements used for hunting and fishing; and they seem to have lost vigour and ambition. Vodka, of course, is the chief enemy; that is simply ruining them body and soul.

"Not only are the people dying out, but the animals also. So many are being slaughtered for their furs that in a few years' time many breeds are likely to be extinct. There is no close season, and the trapping is carried on on a most reckless scale, with no thought for the future. The same with the forests, further south. The trees are being felled in the most extravagant way, and no planting is done in compensation.

"Siberia is a country with immense possibilities, but organisation is needed. It is being exploited rather than developed."

"Perhaps after the war there may come some better organised development?" I suggested. "What effect has the war had, so far, on that part of the world?"

"We were there for some time," replied Miss Curtis, "before we heard that war had broken out. We received no letters, as there was no post office within 500 miles. When at last we did get news, it filled us with the greatest anxiety, as it came from German sources, and was carefully doctored. Trade there is very largely in German hands, as it was, indeed, all over Russia itself, and German influence was very pernicious.

"Naturally, I was anxious to get home as soon as possible; but at one time it seemed as if we should never get through. Winter was coming on, and it was a question whether our ship would get through the Arctic Ocean before it was completely frozen up.

"Indeed, at the junction of the Yenisei and the Kara Sea we met the first icebergs drifting southwards, and a few hours later we were ploughing a way through the 'slam,' *i.e.*, freezing snow. In six hours the 'slam' had formed into a vast field of ice, and our ship, the *Ragua*, was forced to ram the barrier. Fog descended in that grey, lifeless desolation, where we lay all night. And next morning we awoke to find ourselves in a field of new ice, stretching from the horizon, which was jagged with the pinnacles of old ice. For the next thirty-six hours our position was precarious. The *Ragua* was not built for ramming, and —being badly strained by the grinding ice, now some five inches thick—she sprang a leak. Several times, owing to the thickness of the new ice and the great pressure of the surrounding old ice, it became impossible to forge ahead. If we had been frozen in, we should have been forced to abandon the ship, the captain said, for she would have been crushed and have gone down in ten days. Our only chance in this eventuality was to make our way over the ice to Obdorsk, a distance of 500 miles. However, to our regret this last adventure was denied us, for next day the icefield became more broken, and progress, though not without danger from floating bergs, was more rapid. But our difficulties were not yet over, for next day we encountered a terrific gale, the worst experienced in that region for fifty years, we were told. The greater part of our deck cargo, consisting of huge trunks of Siberian cedar, was washed overboard, and we were blown many miles out of our course. Perhaps the most magical sight we witnessed was the waxing and waning beams of the northern lights seen through the wrack of passing snow squalls. We steered by these, as the sun was obscured for several days, and no bearings could be taken.

"After leaving Hammerfest our voyage down the Norwegian coast was uneventful. Contrary to all expectations, we did not run foul of floating mines in the North Sea, though the lifeboats were swung out in the derricks ready to launch in case of accidents, and we reached Newcastle, almost regretting that our adventures were ended."

M. M.

OUR INFORMATION BUREAU.

Are N.U. Societies aware that they have at their disposal an Information Bureau, which, while it does not claim to be omniscient, yet undertakes to answer any reasonable inquiries on any subject relating to Women's Suffrage or Women's Work and Interests generally, "or give the reason why"! All this for the modest fee of *one guinea* annually, which entitles the inquirer to an unlimited number of inquiries—"seven at one blow," if she be so disposed—or 1s. per single inquiry, 6d. per single inquiry to Secretaries of Societies. Inquiries to be addressed to Miss Olive Jetley, at N.U. Headquarters.

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Fund for Maternity and Relief Work among Refugees in Russia.

We are having great difficulty in arranging for the transport of the next consignment of clothes for Russia, as we find the freightage is very high and the duty almost prohibitive; but we are hoping to send out a good deal with our next Unit.

We should, therefore, be very glad if those engaged in working for us would kindly let us have the finished garments by the end of May, when we expect to despatch them. Nothing will be required after this month. When the Archangel route is open the line will be so congested, and the despatch of Government stores will be so urgent, that the Committee have decided not to attempt to send out any more clothing for refugees until the transport is easier. They wish to take this opportunity of offering their very grateful thanks to all those who have worked so hard for them, and who have sent such abundant stores to the needy refugees.

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Already acknowledged ...	4,522	14	9
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Miss L. Kempson	1	1	0
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Miss Lucy Priestman	50	0	0
Miss C. Wallaston—A family collecting box		12	0
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Miss E. Finke, collected ...	1	5	0
	£4,657	3	9

The Hon. Treas. begs to thank all who are subscribing to this fund, and will gratefully acknowledge further subscriptions, which should be sent to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1915	1,245	14	11
Received from May 1st to 6th, 1916:—			
Subscriptions.			
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Miss Agnes Garrett	2	2	0
Mr. Walter H. Heath		10	6
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	£1,315	11	6

WANTED, A BICYCLE.

Madam,—On March 24th, I started back to the Scottish Women's Hospital at Royaumont, after my first leave, with a few possessions of my own, and a bicycle belonging to one of our junior surgeons. The "Sussex" was torpedoed. I was damaged, but saved. My own luggage was afterwards salved from the wreck. But the bicycle was in the foreward hold, which was blown to pieces (almost under my feet!) There is no compensation for loss occasioned by "the King's enemy," and, being a Volunteer worker, I cannot afford to replace the bicycle. If any reader has a free-wheel lady's bicycle (full size, strongly built) that she does not use, will she give it to me to take out to this surgeon when I return in June? *This time I will insure it against war risks!*

V. C. C. Collum.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Lamp Day and the British Women's Hospital.

To the ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE, through one of its founders, Miss Adeline Bourne, with whom originated the idea of doing some big national work, the "Star and Garter" Building Fund owes its inception; and the work begun in the modest precincts of 2, Robert Street, the former scene of so much excellent Suffrage activity, has at the present moment assumed proportions with which a whole army of workers find it difficult to cope.

Scarcely had the first few hundred pounds flowed into the treasury than it was realised that the League's premises would quickly be outgrown; consequently, the munificent offer of spacious rooms from Messrs. Duveen, of 21, Old Bond Street, came at a timely moment.

And what a purpose! Is there any work more dear to the Suffragist than that of helping to mend broken lives? The British Women's Hospital organisation, with its Star and Garter Building Fund, is going to crystalise into stone on beautiful Richmond Hill, a memorial for all time that will speak with no uncertain voice of one effort at least of British women.

And in peaceful years to be, the handsome structure designed by Mr. Gilbert Scott will stand out, overlooking the smiling valley and the glinting river, on a spot of old consecrated, to a gay, if purely selfish purpose, as though saying "Out of the wreck I rise." For the broken lives within, will rise at last out of their wrecked bodies—the fruit of man's great disregard for God's good law—and the tender solicitude of the many ministering hands within the Haven, will make their passing sweet.

So every woman on the Committee of the British Women's Hospital—and it is a big Committee—is throwing all her energies into the common cause; and as the activities arise, increase, and multiply, so undaunted and cheerful, the work is tackled and brought to a successful issue. Concerts, lectures, "At Homes," matinées, Flag Days, collections, sales—every possible appeal is made to the womanhood of Britain; and, beautiful to relate, the response is a joyous one. That is why the Haven on the Hill will breathe an atmosphere of healing and peace, because the givers gave lovingly, and so the gift is consecrate.

Within the office, which is a veritable beehive, every member of the representative Committee is bearing her share of the responsibility of the pledge given to the Red Cross Society at its request, to endeavour to raise the £50,000 required to build the Star and Garter Home. Through the generosity of Lady Cowdray, all the handsome furniture at 21, Old Bond Street has been lent, and the long refectory tables are to-day laden with piles of ledgers, files, account books, all the paraphernalia of organisation, while scores of voluntary workers perform the hideously tedious routine of office with keenest devotion. It is all so well organised, so harmonious, and there are many methods for appealing to kaleidoscopic humanity.

For instance, there are collection books; if these do not attract, there is the collecting card; failing that, there are flags, postcards of Bernard Partridge's beautiful poster, "Haven," reproduced from *Punch;* or Seal stamps. There are articles on sale, generous gifts of all kinds—fascinating pincushions, pictures, the "dernier cri" in silk embroidered handbags, and, above all, there are tickets for all manner of entertainments—programmes that must please the most fastidious.

So no one can escape; no one will want to escape; one and all ask nothing more than the privilege of contributing to this home for the permanently disabled soldiers and sailors who will receive all compensation that is humanly possible, in return for the superhuman task that fell to their lot to fulfil.

But in order to clear away any sense of confusion in the public mind, it may be as well to explain that the British Women's Hospital is concerned solely with the collecting of the money for the *Building Fund;* the upkeep and the endowment are the charge of the British Red Cross. The Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute presented the site of the old building to the Queen; her Majesty desired its dedication to the present purpose, and handed it, therefore, to the British Red Cross, to be used as a home for those gallant men who have been hopelessly wrecked in their country's service.

It seemed an inspiration that so beautiful a spot, and one, moreover, rich in gay and mirthful memory, should be devoted to such a fine purpose; but expert judgment pronounced the old building in every way unsuited to the new needs; therefore, the memorial to be worthy must be rebuilt from its very foundations. This has been no extravagant whim; it was proved

The new Jersey-Coats

THIS is a time for *practical* garments, and no more useful item of feminine attire could be imagined than the new Jersey-Coat. We are offering some specially good Values in these Coats, and our assortment affords an excellent range of Styles in Silk, Artificial Silk, Cashmere, &c. Here are two instances:—

The "Hoylake."

The "Hoylake"
(as sketch at left) Crêpe de chine Coat with the new blazer stripes, fully cut, finished with stylish sash. **39/6**
Also in plain colours, **35/6**

Stylish Jersey - Coat
(as sketch at right) in imitation Silk, very full skirt, finished with double sash and tassels. In white, black, and leading colours. **35/6**

Peter Robinson's
OXFORD STREET
Peter Robinson Ltd.

that it would be far more economical to rebuild than to tinker with and convert what could never be satisfactory, in view of the special requirements of the inmates to be. For the Star and Garter will shelter those who will need loving hands and hearts, daily, hourly, always; those in whom the flame of life burns strong in impotence; those who have surrendered all but the link that binds them to their earthly shell.

And is there one woman who would begrudge these men this Haven? Will anyone count the cost of any personal sacrifice that will lay stone upon stone till this monument of gratitude cries out on Richmond Hill?

On May 12th, Florence Nightingale's birthday is being fitly celebrated with what will be known as Lamp Day. What more gracious tribute can be paid to the Pioneer Lady with the Lamp than for each and all to commemorate her work by purchasing a lamp, and thus helping to light the way to those enveloped in the awful darkness of the world-wide war?

I. B.

The Women's Emergency Corps.

It will be fresh in the minds of many people that "The Women's Emergency Corps" was an organisation started to deal with emergencies as they arose in the difficult and anxious time which followed the declaration of war. Miss Beatrice Harraden, who is a member of "The Women Writers' Suffrage League," at once responded to the invitation of Miss Decima Moore, Miss Eva Moore, and Miss Lena Ashwell, of the Actresses' Franchise League, who founded the Corps, and wrote an appeal in the Press, which appeared in the leading daily and other papers, in response to which sufficient money came in to start the organisation on a sound financial basis.

During the first two weeks the W.E.C. dealt with over ten thousand cases of personal service. On August 27th, 1914, the first public meeting of the Corps was held at the Shaftesbury Theatre, with Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss Decima Moore, Miss Eva Moore, the Hon. Mrs. E. Haverfield, Miss Mary MacAilton, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence as speakers. The Duchess of Marlborough presided, and has acted as Hon. Treasurer.

Therefore, months before the Government had thought of registering the services of women they had registered themselves. Women presented themselves ready to take work as doctors, dispensers, trained nurses, untrained nurses (willing to be trained), interpreters, chauffeurs, cyclists, motor cyclists, messengers, cooks, and in numberless other occupations. Women also applied to be taken on as gardeners, tram or 'bus conductors, lift women, caretakers, ticket collectors; and though at first not many were employed, gradually they were welcomed into all the avenues open to energy.

The Women's Emergency Corps has co-operated with thirty other societies, their fundamental idea being to utilise existing machinery.

Although the work in progress at the moment is more limited, the Corps is still active and ready to meet emergencies, and a special appeal is made to women who have spare time to come forward and enroll themselves as members of the Handywomen's Department, which is being largely extended.

Needlework Department.

Since the opening of the workrooms, three to four hundred women have been trained, the majority of whom were poor gentlewomen and over forty years of age. Fine sewing has been taught, shirts, waterproof waistcoats, and many other articles for the troops have been undertaken, amongst them 100,000 respirator covers, 50,000 service pockets, 1,000 overalls and caps for munition workers in the national shell factories, and at one time we sent 5,000 sandbags to the front every week. Work is now very urgently needed to keep these women employed.

Handywomen's Department.

From the commencement of the "Corps" until Easter, 1916, the Handywomen's Department has registered over 4,000 voluntary workers who have filled positions as secretaries, canteen workers, messengers, doorkeepers, entertainers, &c.

During last summer nearly 1,000 women did arduous day and night work for the Government in dipping and drying and packing of respirator helmets. Helpers were supplied for the National Register, and various schemes run by the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Chronicle*, *Daily Sketch*, *Star*, National Food Fund, Camp Libraries, War Hospital Depôts, and the British Women's Hospital, &c.

Belgian Hostel.

The Hostel for Belgians occupies two houses kindly lent by the Mayor of Marylebone. It is for middle-class Belgians, and for the last year the average per week is twenty-one residents. We receive from Aldwych the grant of 10s. a head per week. The expenses of the Hostel, including electric light, firing, and wages, are paid out of the 10s. grant. Endeavours are made to find work for those able to do any, and to encourage the younger members to take up typewriting, shorthand, and book-keeping, also to learn English, so that when proficient they may become self-supporting.

Cooks and Caterers.

The voluntary workers in this special department have been excellent in their willingness to give their services, and many of them have done most useful work in military hospitals and Belgian homes, &c. Some County Council teachers of cookery have been allowed to offer their services, and have proved very efficient. We have been applied to for voluntary cooks by the matrons, commandants, or other authorities of about fifty different war institutions. In a good many of these positions the workers find it almost impossible to carry on the work expected of them for more than a few months, as the assistance given is often quite inadequate. Many young girls with certificates and diplomas find the real practical work beyond their capacity, but after a little experience, and perhaps one or two failures, have found posts which they could fill satisfactorily. Now, however, after eighteen months' experience of registering and placing lady workers in all sorts of hospitals and homes, colony kitchens, or rest homes, it is evident that more organisation is required in the kitchens as to definite duties, hours off, sleeping accommodation, and fair pay. Small salaries in addition to board and lodging, will be necessary in the future if the work is to be done efficiently, and happier conditions must be made possible by those responsible.

War-Saving Alliance.

At a meeting in the Mansion House early in March, 1916, the War Saving Alliance was founded to press the patriotic duty of "Saving for Victory," of preventing waste of necessities, and of unnecessary purchase of imports. Members are invited to sign the following pledge: "I desire to join the War Saving Alliance, and I agree to the following: (1) To save a definite proportion of my income weekly, monthly, or quarterly, or to put aside a lump sum and to invest it in Government Securities, and not to withdraw it except in case of urgent necessity; (2) to prevent waste, and to discourage the production and importation of luxuries for home consumption.

Eighteen meetings have been held in schools, girls' clubs, mothers' meetings, &c., and 172 members have joined, most of whom have undertaken to save either by means of the G.P.O. Savings Bank penny-stamp forms, or by the War Saving sixpenny-stamp certificates, or have bought for 1s., or have had lent to them, for a deposit of 6d., the savings' boxes—the shape of shells (gun-shells, not those to be found on the sea shore), which are very popular.

Social Relief Department.

The Social Relief Department, worked by the Women's Imperial Health Association, has, up to Easter, 1916, placed on its card-index upwards of 3,000 voluntary workers. A second register of requests for workers was kept. Ladies were constantly drafted to suitable work, and many centres wrote most gratefully of their efficiency and regular attendance.

The Relief Section assisted numerous families and individuals stranded by the war, who were also clothed by the English Clothing Section, thanks to many generous gifts of clothes and money. All relief cases were investigated and reported to the Mutual Registration of the C.O.S.

N. U. W. S. S.
A LANTERN LECTURE
IN AID OF
THE MATERNITY RELIEF UNITS FOR REFUGEES IN RUSSIA,
ENTITLED
THROUGH ARCTIC SIBERIA WITH MY CAMERA,
WILL BE GIVEN IN THE
Johanghier Hall, Imperial Institute, South Kensington,
TUESDAY, MAY 23rd,
BY
MISS MARIE CZAPLICKA, F.R.A.I., F.R.G.S.,
Research Student of the Oxford School of Anthropology.
Author of "Aboriginal Siberia" and "My Siberian Year."
Chair to be taken at 6.30 by Mrs. ALYS RUSSELL.
Reserved tickets 5s., unreserved 2s. 6d., can be obtained at N.U.W.S.S., 14, Gt. Smith St., and W. H. Smith & Son, Booksellers, 62, High St., South Kensington.

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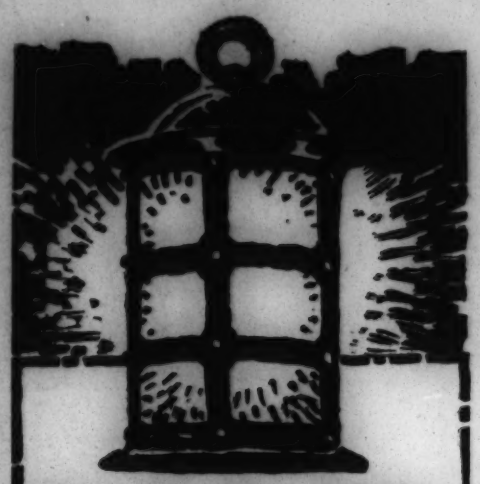

LAMP DAY

FRIDAY MAY 12th

(FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE'S BIRTHDAY)

PLEASE HELP

WOMEN'S SERVICE IN WAR TIME

by giving freely to the Funds of

The Women's Service Bureau
The Women's Emergency Corps
and
The British Women's Hospital
(Star & Garter)

SINCE August, 1914, the response of women to the call for their patriotic service has been magnificent. That call grows greater and the need for their work more urgent day by day. The Women's Service Bureau, the Women's Emergency Corps, and the British Women's Hospital are meeting a great part of that need. To help them

A STREET COLLECTION is being held on May 12th.

If you live outside the Metropolitan area, please send a little money to 58, Victoria Street, London.

Cross cheques or P.O.'s, "London County and Westminster Bank" (Victoria Branch), and make payable to any of the following Honorary Treasurers:—

THE DUCHESS of MARLBOROUGH
THE LADY COWDRAY
The HON. MRS. SPENCER GRAVES.

BUY A LAMP ON LAMP DAY

Forthcoming Meetings.

MAY 11th.

Highgate and North St. Pancras—At 3, Holly Terrace—Study Circle on War and Democracy, 2nd and 4th Thursday this month 3.0

MAY 12th.

Bristol—At 40, Park Street—Lecture by Miss Thompson on "Spending and Saving in War Time" 7.30

MAY 13th.

Birmingham—At Bourneville, Handsworth, and Stechford—Special sale of COMMON CAUSE.

MAY 15th.

Birmingham—Sparkhill Women's Co-operative Guild—Motherhood—Miss Bett 3.0

Birmingham—Harborne Women's Own Motherhood—Miss M. Sturge 8.0

Birmingham—Bearwood Women's Co-operative Guild—Motherhood—Mrs. Martin 8.0

Birkenhead—Annual Meeting Theosophical Society's Rooms, 48a, Hamilton Street—Speaker, J. Sandeman Allen, Esq., on "War Economy"—Chair, Mrs. W. Jackson 4.0

Highgate and North St. Pancras—Annual Meeting at the Spears Memorial Hall, Highgate Hill, N.—Chair, Mrs. Garnett—Lantern Lectures by Mrs. Oliver Strachey on "Women's Service in War-time" and Mrs. Streeter, "The Maternity Unit for Refugees in Russia" 8.0

Strand—I.W.S.A. Office, 7, Adam Street—Meeting of Advisory Committee—Programme for July Conference, prepared by the Executive—Draft of Resolutions—Committee—Your presence is earnestly requested 3.0

MAY 16th.

Bristol—At 40, Park Street—Women's Interests Committee 7.30

MAY 17th.

Bolton—Annual Meeting will be held at 7.15 at the Girls' Club, Kensington Street, St. George's Road, followed by a Public Meeting at 7.45—Chair, Mr. Isaac Edwards—Speaker, Mrs. Annot Robinson, L.L.A.—"The New Position of Women in Industry"—All members of the Society, their friends, and the public are cordially invited—Collection to cover expenses.

MAY 18th.

Leamington—A Meeting will be held at 35, Warwick Street—Speaker, Miss Margesson—Subject, "Women on the Land."

MAY 20th.

Huddersfield—Annual Meeting, Temperance Hall—Speaker, Dr. Lilian Chesney—Chair, Miss Siddon, J.P., President—Tea, 5 p.m.—Meeting, 7 p.m.

Scottish Women's Hospitals.

MAY 11th.—New Cross, S.E.—Askes Hatcham School for Girls—Arranged by Miss Young 3.0

MAY 12th.—Islington—Dame Alice Owen's School, Owen's Row 3.30

MAY 17th.—Ambleside—Annual Meeting and "At Home," at Mrs. Cuncliffe's residence, "Croft"—Speaker, Dr. Alice Hutchison—Collection for N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

May 30th.—6, Gloucester Square, W. (by kind permission of Mrs. A. H. Jessel)—A Concert for Scottish Women's Hospitals—Tickets, 5s., to be obtained from Mrs. H. Flinders Petrie, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. Tea, 4.30; Concert, 5.0

Working Parties.

Birkenhead—Theosophical Society's Rooms, 48a, Hamilton Street—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S Scottish Women's Hospitals 2nd and 4th Monday in the month, 2.0

Bolton—Suffrage Shop, Bradshawgate—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Monday, 2.30; and every Thursday at 8.0

Bournemouth—At 167, Old Christchurch Road—for the Polish Refugees Maternity Unit Every Monday, 3.0—6.0

Bridlington—Sewing Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Wednesday, 3.0—6.0

Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street—May 17th. 3.0

Chiswick and Bedford Park—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Thursday, 3.0—6.0

Eastbourne—At the Club, 134, Terminus Road—Sewing Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Hospitals in France and Serbia Every Monday, 2.30—4.30

Farnham—At Bourne Lodge—Working Party for the Russian Maternity Unit On Thursday, at 2.45—4.15

Hastings—At the Suffrage Club—A Working Party for Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Tuesday, 2.30—6.0

Highgate—At 26, West Hill—Hostess, Mrs. Garnett—Members and friends cordially invited every 3rd Friday 3.0—5.0

Huddersfield—Sewing Meetings will be held at the Office, 41, Spring Street Every Tuesday, 2.30

Lowestoft—For the Polish Refugees Maternity Unit—Every Monday alternately—Miss Coates, 61, London Road—North, Mrs. Drummond, 32, Kirkley Park Road 2.30

Paddington—22, Kildare Terrace, Westbourne Grove (by kind permission of Mrs. Barstow)—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m

Scarborough—6, Falconer Chambers—Working Party Every Monday, 2.45

Shipley and Baildon—Ladies' Parlour of Saltaire Congregational Church School—Sewing Meeting Every Thursday, 2.30

Southampton—Working Party for the Russian Maternity Unit, at Hazelhurst, Hulse Road—Hostess, Mrs. Farquharson Every Wednesday, 3.0—6.30

South Kensington—Belgian Hostel, 1, Argyll Road—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Tuesday and Friday, 2.0—4.30

Wakefield—St. John's Institute—Sewing Party Every Wednesday, 2.30—6.0

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

West Lancs, West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation.

The above Federation undertook at the meeting held in February to raise at least £500 to finance a Unit in Russia, mainly for children, and it was decided to try and interest members of Societies and the general public in the work. Meetings were held in Bangor, Rhyl, Colwyn Bay, and Carnarvon, in Liverpool, Wallasey, and Birkenhead, at which Miss Geraldine Cooke gave most graphic accounts of the conditions which prevail in the towns where the refugees congregate, and much interest has been aroused. Up to date, £267 2s. 5d. has been received (£160 7s. 11d. by collections at meetings, £106 14s. 6d. by donations), and this by no means exhausts the promises given, nor the efforts made by the Societies.

Solihull.

An opportunity for "Women's Work in War Time" has been effectively taken in our district. The local branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies had its attention directed to the lack of warm clothing for the soldiers of some of our less well-provided Allies. It was thought that many women who had become enrolled as "Friends of Women's Suffrage" would be happy to devote time and work to the making of warm garments, if material could be provided. A circular letter soliciting help was sent to some of our residents, and the sum of £9 was promptly contributed.

A series of weekly sewing meetings was forthwith arranged, which were well attended. At the first meeting, Mrs. Ring (the Secretary of the Birmingham Suffrage Society) gave an address, in which she spoke of the indescribable hardships undergone by our Italian and Serbian friends. As a result of the sewing meetings, the Society which had added £5 from its own funds to the £9 above mentioned, was able to send at Christmas sixty warm woollen garments to the Italian headquarters (and since then have sent many more). The contribution was most gratefully acknowledged.

This small success encouraged the making of an appeal quite outside the confines of the Suffrage Society, and it was proposed to hold a large whist party in the interest of the good cause. A committee was formed, many Solihull residents entered into the project with enthusiasm, and a most successful evening's entertainment resulted. Members of the Committee lent carpets, furniture, and decoration, others gave refreshments and willing service, so that the hall assumed a quite unwonted aspect of gaiety for the occasion. A number of prizes were kindly given, and these were competed for by a large gathering of Solihull people who had responded so willingly to the invitation to help.

Mrs. Maurice Davis, who kindly acted as honorary treasurer, reported that the net profit from the sale of tickets amounted to over £30, two-thirds of which has been equally divided between the Italian fund and the Serbian fund, while the balance was devoted to the Croix Rouge Française and the Belgian Fund.

Herne Bay.

The Herne Bay Society for Women's Suffrage has recently received the honour of being "officially recognised" by the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations (Colonel Sir Edward Ward); and, as "The Herne Bay Voluntary Association," is busily engaged in carrying out a Requisition Order, received from the Director-General, to supply the local V.A.D. Hospital with several necessary articles. Besides this work, the Society is continuing its labours for the N.U.W.S.S. Women's Hospitals, and for the men of our Navy: another huge parcel having been sent last week to the Equipment Secretary of the Women's Hospitals, and a large number of garments supplied to the crew of H.M.S. "Lysander." As this is the only organisation in the district so honoured with "official recognition," the Society has good cause for congratulation.

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Our readers are earnestly requested to support the Advertisers in the paper. Only firms of the highest repute are accepted by us, and if all readers will deal exclusively with them, it will materially help *The Common Cause.*

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

CORBETT-FISHER.—On the 30th April, at 11, Upper-Cheyne-row, Chelsea, to Chalmers Dempster (Temporary Captain, A.S.C., British Salonika Force), and Cicely Dean Corbett-Fisher—a son, Reuben.

THE MONTESSORI SYSTEM and its Extension to Children in the Elementary Schools.—MURIEL MATTERS, who is now studying under Dr. Montessori in Barcelona, returns early in June, and is now booking dates for lectures.—For further details apply to Miss V. Tillard, Aberfoyle, New-rd., Bookham.

POSITION WANTED.

ENGINEERING.—Lady Draughtsman, with knowledge mathematics, desires post; some experience; linguist.—Y., c/o Miss Fuller, 99, New Bond-st., W.

POSITIONS VACANT.

WANTED, Lady to share household work of convenient modern house in garden village; comfortable home; family 3; state age, qualifications, and salary required.—Mrs. Sorensen, New Earswick, York.

WANTED, Lady Parlourmaid for country house, good salary, congenial company, comfortable conditions.—Box 5,769, COMMON CAUSE Office.

CARPENTRY.

TRY THE WOMAN WAR-TIME CARPENTER.—Estimates free for window-sashes, locks, electrical work, &c.—Mrs. A. Brown, 5, Palmer-st., Westminster, S.W.

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MRS. WOOD-SMITH, M.P.S., Chemist, coaches Women Students for the Apothecaries Hall Dispensers Examination.—Apply 9, Blenheim-rd., Bedford-pk., W.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for this booklet to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 3, Kingsway. 'Phone, Central 6049.

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LAUNDRY.

BUSH HILL PARK STEAM LAUNDRY, 19-20, Second-avenue, Enfield. Proprietor, Miss M. B. Lattimer. Best family work, under personal supervision of trained experts. Open-air drying. Hand-done shirts and collars. Specialities: flannels, silks, fine linen, laces, &c. Prompt attention to parcels sent by post.

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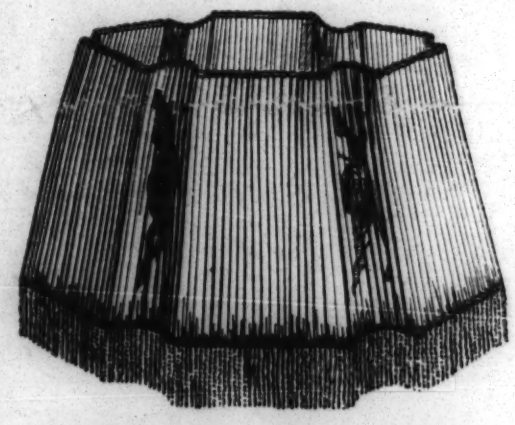

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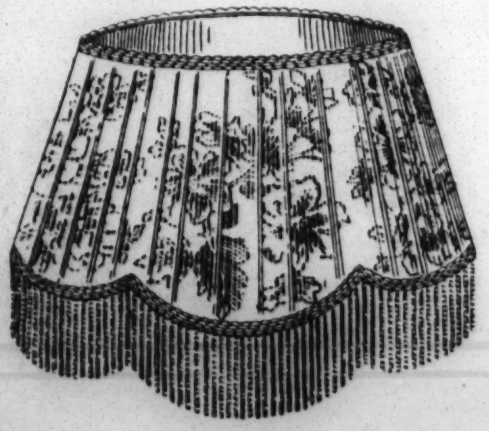

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15 in „ **14/9**

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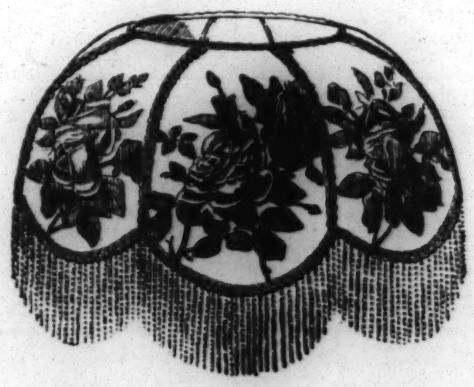

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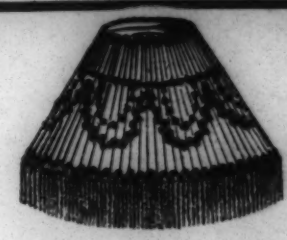
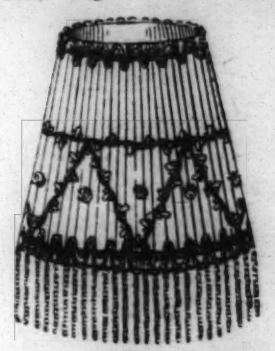


Linen **ELECTRIC LIGHT SHADE.** 8 in. diameter. Trimmed heather and bead fringe. Price **4/6**



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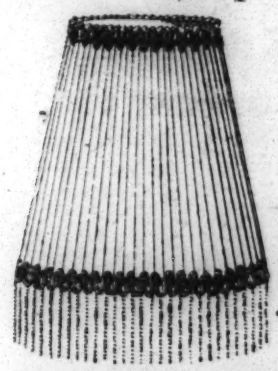

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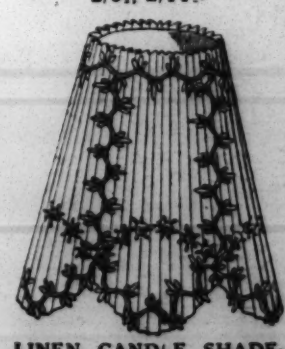

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